

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-15 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 IO-14 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /109 W
-----124823 061558Z /43

R 061153Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6717

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 0976

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAGR, SU

SUBJ: PRELIMINARY STATISTICS ON SUDANESE COTTON PRODUCTION

REF: KHARTOUM 332

1. ALTHOUGH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS NOT YET
RELEASED REVISED PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR COTTON PRODUCTION
FOR 1977/78, WE ARE RECEIVING CONSISTENT REPORTS THAT PRODUCTION
WILL BE LOWER THAN REPORTED IN REFTEL. MOST INDUSTRY SOURCES
ARE NOW ESTIMATING TOTAL PRODUCTION OF 900-950 THOUSAND
BALES WHILE MOST PESIMISTIC ARE GUESSING 800-850 THOUSAND
BALES.

2. INITIAL ESTIMATES OF MEDIUM AND SHORT STAPLE REPORTED
REFTEL OF SLIGHTLY GREATER THAN 400 THOUSAND APPEAR
REASONABLY ACCURATE. MEDIUM STAPLE PRODUCTION WAS AROUND
400 THOUSAND BALES WITH AN ADDITIONAL 40 THOUSAND BALES
OF SHORT STAPLE. INITIAL ESTIMATES OF LONG STAPLE WERE HIGH
AND THERE MAY HAVE BEEN UNUSUAL LOSSES IN PICKING. LABOR
SHORTAGES HAVE SEVERELY HAMPERED PICKING WHICH NORMALLY
SHOULD BE COMPLETED AT ABOUT THIS TIME.

3. LOWER LONG STAPLE PRODUCTION MAY PUSH PRICES

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HIGHER AS WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE OTHER PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER
OF LONG STAPLE COTTON (EGYPT) HAD A POOR CROP LAST YEAR
AND STOCK LEVELS ARE LOW.
BERGUS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COTTON, PRODUCTION DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO000976
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-0951
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803103/aaaadjrd.tel
Line Count: 59
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c34f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KHARTOUM 332
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3109195
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRELIMINARY STATISTICS ON SUDANESE COTTON PRODUCTION
TAGS: ECON, EAGR, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c34f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014